

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of a bee disease, the composition comprising:

(a) an inoculum containing one or more microorganisms that are non-pathogenic to bees for producing a microflora having therapeutic or prophylactic efficacy against the bee disease; and

(b) an apicultural delivery vehicle for delivering the inoculum to a component of a bee hive, or to ~~at least a portion of~~ a bee colony that is susceptible to or infected with the bee disease, whereby a remedial and/or protective microflora is established within the hive or the bee colony.

2. **(original)** The composition of claim 1, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is selected from:

- (a) a patty;
- (b) a syrup;
- (c) a drench;
- (d) a dusting; and
- (e) a paste.

3. **(original)** The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a patty selected from:

- (a) a sugar patty; and
- (b) a sugar and fat extender patty.

4. **(original)** The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a syrup comprising sugar and water.
5. **(original)** The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a dusting comprising sugar.
6. **(original)** The composition of claim 2, wherein the apicultural delivery vehicle is a paste comprising a pollen substitute.
7. **(original)** The composition of claim 1, wherein the inoculum comprises one or more microorganism(s) that produce one or more antibiotic(s) active against one or more bee pathogen(s).
8. **(original)** The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are active against at least one of *Melissococcus pluton* and *Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *larvae*.
9. **(original)** The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are bacteriolytic.
10. **(original)** The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are the anti-*Melissococcus pluton* and/or the anti-*Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *larvae* antibiotic(s) found in *Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *pulvifaciens*.
11. **(original)** The composition of claim 7, wherein the antibiotic(s) are active against one or more of *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Pseudomonas putida*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Micrococcus luteus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Paenibacillus alvei*, *Paenibacillus larvae* subsp. *larvae*, *Paenibacillus apiarius*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, and *Melissococcus pluton*.
12. **(original)** The composition of claim 7, wherein the microorganism(s) comprise bacteria.

13. *(original)* The composition of claim 12, wherein the bacteria comprise bacterial endospores.
14. *(original)* The composition of claim 13, wherein the bacterial endospores are washed and/or concentrated.
15. *(original)* The composition of claim 12, wherein the bacteria comprise a *Paenibacillus* spp.
16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the *Paenibacillus* spp. is:
 - (a) a subspecies of *Paenibacillus larvae*; or
 - (b) *P. alvei*.